

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

1940 - 41

ANNUAL REPORT FOR
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
1940 - 1941

During the past year the department of Special Collections has broadened its activities and established itself more firmly as a department. Its increased activity with exhibition work has improved its relationship with the faculty and the work on exhibitions in South Hall has made us feel as if we were taking a greater part in the general activities of The Libraries. What Special Collections can contribute to the work of the University in care and conservation of The Libraries' materials is clearer in our own minds. The responsibilities towards the field of Book Arts still appear our most recognized work. This interest does not by any means occupy most of our attention, and our activities have developed along a good many other lines. A small collection of reference works for users of our collection is being gathered. This in time will develop for Special Collections a department for research as well as storage and care of many valuable books and special collections. We are now in a position to take care of many of the type of gifts which should be coming to the Columbia University Libraries. During the coming year I hope we can approach more of our potential friends of The Libraries. I believe we have something to offer them as well as they have to offer us.

EXHIBITIONS

During the year a number of interesting exhibitions were

planned. Special exhibitions were set up on the occasion of the meeting of a number of groups at Columbia - The English Institute, Conference of Eastern College Librarians and American Historical Society. Exhibitions have been made of our outstanding acquisitions, especially the two gifts of Mr. Coykendall of his first editions of Leigh Hunt and of Robert Bridges. For the occasion of the Robert Bridges Exhibition, Professor William York Tindall wrote an article on Bridges for the Columbia University Quarterly and Professor Lowell P. Beveridge sponsored a program in the chapel of music of Robert Bridges in honor of the occasion. Mr. Philip Brooks reviewed the exhibition in his column in The New York Times. The Columbia University Press has been very helpful in loaning copies of the Bridges bibliography and members of its staff have cooperated with us in other ways in our exhibition work. Exhibitions of single items were of interest - especially the selections from North American Wild Flowers. On this occasion, the Botany Department held a very interesting lecture with colored slides in Room 205. The literary occasion of the year was in connection with the Gertrude Stein Exhibition. Following is a complete list of exhibitions held during the year:

Room 205, Low Memorial Library

500th Anniversary of the Invention of Printing.
(January, 1940 - October, 1940)

The Illustrated Book, 15th to 20th Century, Selections
from Special Collections. (November, 1940 - January,
1941)

Sacred Texts and Other Religious Books. A supplement to the exhibition Religion and Culture held in the Rotunda.
(February - March, 1941)

First Editions of Robert Bridges, Collected by Mr. Frederick Coykendall. (April, 1941 - October, 1941)

Rotunda, Low Memorial Library

500th Anniversary of the Invention of Printing.
(January - October, 1940)

Selections from Monumenta Cartographica, edited by Dr. F. C. Wieder. (November, 1940 - January, 1941)

Selections from North American Wild Flowers by Mary Vaux Walcott. (March - April, 1941)

Gertrude Stein - An Exhibition of her Writings Lent Through the Courtesy of the Yale University Library.
(April 17 - May 17, 1941)

Selections from Some Recent Additions to Special Collections.
(May 25 - September, 1941)

South Hall - 3rd Floor

Exhibition illustrating some points in connection with the meetings of the English Institute on the Dating of Books by Bibliographical Evidence. (September, 1940)

Some Examples of Care and Repair of Books and Pamphlets, and Rebinding and Restoration of Books from the Collection of Children's Periodicals of Miss Isadore G. Mudge. On the occasion of the meetings of the Conference of Eastern College Librarians. (November 23 - December 9, 1940)

Exhibition of the Original Drawings by David Fredenthal for the illustration of the Decennial Edition of Tobacco Road. Loan exhibition in connection with a lecture in the School of Library Service. (December 10th - 25th, 1940)

Robert Owen and Robert Dale Owen. Held on the occasion of the meetings of the American Historical Association.
(December 26 - January, 1941)

First Editions of Leigh Hunt Collected by Frederick Coykendall and Presented to Columbia University Libraries.
(February - April, 1941)

Bookbindings of Kathryn and Gerhard Gerlach and Pupils of Their Classes. Set up by the Gerlachs - labels typed by Miss Cushing. (May - June, 1941).

Brook Farm, 1841 - 1847. An exhibition to commemorate the centenary of its founding. Notes written by Professor Arthur E. Bestor, Jr. Set up by John H. Berthel. Exhibition Notes, No 1 has been issued for this exhibition. (July - September 15, 1941)

On the whole, the exhibitions have had their usefulness. I believe they helped establish better relationship between faculty members and The Libraries and I hope we may tie up our work more and more with faculty interests. I have found the faculty cooperative whenever asked for help. Exhibitions have also been of help I believe in showing off new gifts and recent acquisitions. We have done very little to cooperate with actual classroom activities but I believe it might be possible to do something occasionally, such as the exhibition we had on The Illustrated Book in connection with the course of Dr. Lehmann-Haupt's. In the Reading Room one case has been reserved for single items of Book Arts interest. The notices which we have put out irregularly have done something towards increasing interest in our collections and circulating information about new additions to the library. There are obvious difficulties still in Room 203 and the Rotunda as exhibition rooms. We lack adequate or proper means for displaying prints and broadsides in the Rotunda. We might accomplish this most satisfactorily by means of boards, covered with neutral material, which could be set in on the shelves and to which the prints could be fastened. For the coming year very little has actually been planned. There will be some good material in the gifts of Mr. Coykendall and I think he could be interested in publishing a

check-list of the John Drinkwater items which he has collected, along with an exhibition. Miss Meixell has indicated that she will want the Exhibition Room and Rotunda over Commencement, 1942 for an exhibition for some meeting of a group of engineers.

ACQUISITIONS

Our outstanding acquisitions of the year have been reported on the Special Acquisition Record for:

First editions of Robert Bridges	- Gift of Mr. Frederick Coykendall
First editions of Leigh Hunt	- Gift of Mr. Frederick Coykendall
First editions of Lafcadio Hearn	- Purchase
Stedman Papers	- Purchase
Original drawing of Gustave Doré	- Gift of members of the Garden Club of America
Pastepoint	- Gift of Professor Thomas O. Mabbott
Manuscript prayer book, German 15th Century	- Gift of Professor Thomas O. Mabbott
Ortelius and Bruin	- Purchase
Stokes, <u>Isonography</u>	- Purchase

This year to summarize our special acquisitions of individual items or types of purchases, Mr. Howes put up an exhibition in the Rotunda of Selections from Some Recent Additions to Special Collections. This was set up for over the Commencement period, and may have given some recognition of our appreciation of individual gifts as well as indicated some of our interests. Some of the items

worth mentioning not listed above are;

A selection of books on photography given by Mr. Edward Epstein who has added 156 items to his collection during the year.

A selection of books and ephemera on the 500th anniversary of the invention of printing - during the year we have made an effort to gather and save as much as possible published on this anniversary.

Selections from the Fifty Books of the Year - each year we select a few of the most interesting publications chosen by the committee as a record of contemporary fine book production.

Catalogue of Books and Manuscripts in the Estelle Doherty Collection, one of 100 copies printed by the Ward Ritchie Press, 1940. Gift of Dr. Charles C. Williamson.

Catalogue of the Library of George W. Jones at the Sign of the Dolphin. Gift of George W. Jones.

Bibliography of the Grabhorn Press - purchase.

A.l.s. of F. B. Sanborn, April 24, 1882, reporting the condition of Ralph Waldo Emerson who died three days later. - purchase.

A.l.s. of Gertrude Stein, September 15, 1934. Gift of Mr. Russell Potter.

Les Cent et Un Robert Macaire. Paris, 1840. Lithographic illustrations by Honoré Daumier - purchase.

Also during the year we have been able to acquire some of the much needed reference tools to increase the usefulness of our collections such as a Webster Dictionary, Cambridge Bibliography, Short Title Catalog, Foley's American Authors, The Horace Bibliography, the Mather bibliographies. Some effort was made to acquire a few examples of fine modern book illustration. Our subscription to the Columbiad Club has brought in a number of small

interesting items. A few purchases were made in the fields of motion pictures, literary annuals, Emerson Collection, and such collections. The appropriations for Special Collections are not such as to make it possible to say we are really building up these collections.

The acquisition of materials for Special Collections is complicated by lack of a clear understanding of its responsibilities and aims in a number of fields. With our very limited funds and almost unlimited possibilities for purchase, it would be desirable to establish some criteria for buying. For example the policy of buying for the Joan of Arc Collection is taken care of directly from South Hall and not from Special Collections. For our collection of literary annuals we have occasionally recommended items and for the Emerson Collection. In these two fields the method of waiting for items to come up in dealers' catalogs is not the most economical way to purchase. I should like to see some convenient method for acquiring the small material coming up on auction or occasionally to be found in second-hand bookstores to build up these collections. The chief value of a policy regarding the building up of these collections would be the watchful interest in them by members of our staff. With regard to the Book Arts, I feel there is occasionally needless duplication with the interest of the School of Library Service Library. Now with the acquisition of the American Type Founders Library, we may have very increased responsibility to keep up for The Libraries the outstanding

material in these fields. With regard to materials in the fields of interest of the Reference Department, we also need some clarification of policy. All last year from time to time the bibliographies on regional printing which we have were wanted by the Reference Department. I feel we should have the bibliographies relating to early American printing, if we are to take an interest in these books. I believe we are making a mistake to gather our rare books into collections and not provide the standard working tools for those collections. The interest and efficiency of the staff as well as the convenience of the readers is involved. Should our appropriation under Special Collections 293 be devoted essentially to the literature in Book Arts, as it well could be to keep it a first rate collection, or should not the collections which we have been developing receive an appropriate allowance?

Among the acquisitions to Special Collections may be counted the transfers of material from the stacks. The fact that a committee has been set up for the decisions for such transfers, and a routine established, I believe will prove very valuable. The discouraging part of the work comes in handling books which, if they had once been more carefully handled, would be really very prize additions to Special Collections. I think in the long run a better policy of conservation will result from the experience of handling from week to week volumes which suffered considerably from general stack use and poor library bindings. There is, of course, too often very little that can be done now to put these volumes into respectable condition.

SELIGMAN LIBRARY

The use of the books in the Seligman Library has been steady all year, and a number of visiting scholars have received permission to work on the collection. The most difficult problem in administration of the collection is the fact that users of the library want to work from the shelves as the check-list made by Dr. Seligman is not adequate. The work on cataloging has progressed steadily. (The figure on books cataloged has been reported through the cataloging department.) The main effort of the past few months was to get listed all periodicals not available in the general library for inclusion in the Union List of Serials. Mrs. Wright has spent most of her time on the cataloging of Seligman books, but has helped out on occasions when we were short staffed, has planned to be available one of the noon hours, and sometimes has helped with readers and reference problems involving Seligman books. The most pressing need with respect to the care of the books in the Seligman Library is their bindings. With the improved pamphlet binding by our Binding Department and with a little more care on the methods of sewing as used by Dess & Talan, the problem can be taken care of slowly. For aid in cataloging we have borrowed a set of the cataloger's cards which were used by the printer for copy for the Catalogue of the Kress Library. The Baker Library is also sending us a card for each additional book they are cataloging in exchange for ours. Although we have received many cards from Harvard, we have not as yet completed a single card in the cataloging of the Seligman Collection. The exhibition on Robert Owen and Robert Dale Owen was

drawn chiefly from materials in the Seligman Library.

CIRCULATION

Interlibrary Loan requests for books in Special Collections have been quite consistently refused. We have loaned books for exhibition purposes to other departments, and once to Bard College. Books have been loaned to Dr. Lehmann-Haupt to use in connection with his work at Smith College. Books were loaned also for the Book Arts course on The History of the Book given in South Hall. The use of these books in this way (especially the trotting of these books back and forth across the campus) may be questioned. I should like to suggest the making of a series of slides for points of interest. Miss Shaver, I know, would appreciate them and prefer often to use slides in place of books. It is nice to have slides of our own books. The New York Public Library has a little moving picture which was made of some of their great rarities. The picture is used to show to groups which come to visit. They found it impossible to constantly try to show their rarities to groups of visitors. There are a number of advantages in such an arrangement besides conservation of rare, valuable, and often frail originals. A small fund spent each year on slides of books in our collection might in time be more than worth their expense. A few loans have been made for use of books and manuscripts in South Hall under special arrangement.

CATALOGING

Our problems of cataloging remain about the same. We are now

receiving cards for all books cataloged in South Hall. I hope we don't run into a worse problem in time by neglecting to acquire a record for our holdings previous to 1939. To work without any records for these books has its difficulties. I have always felt that the responsibility for our catalog should be with the Catalog Department but as it is, it works out satisfactorily as long as I have experienced enough assistants to help keep the records straight. There is a long lag between the arrival of books and the arrival of cards to the Special Collections Department. This lag is bad for two reasons - The first is that we do not often know we have a responsibility for a book until the cards have arrived which may be too late to identify how it was lost. This has happened with two books apparently cataloged and sent to us in August 1940. The cards for the books arrived sometime towards the end of the year and we then discovered we were supposed to have the books which never got to our department. The other disadvantage is not being able to check the cards against the books. It is not wise to leave the books around waiting for cards, and so when the cards come it demands checking or accepting what is on the card. We have discovered the cards occasionally need to be checked before filing. The only other point in the procedure I question very seriously is the assigning of books, to be classified in Special Collections, directly in South Hall. I often wonder about some of the things that arrive, and how they are expected to be taken care of in the classification they have been put. We are thankful for what we receive and take

the good along with the questionable. I often wonder about what doesn't come over here. I think we could be helpful at times in the segregation of those books which should come to Special Collections rather than to the stacks. Following are our statistics for the year on cataloging:

Titles cataloged

Cards received	(897
Titles waiting for cards	507

1404

Waiting to be cataloged

Robert Bridges Collection	
Leigh Hunt Collection	
Seligman Collection	
Stedman Collection	- Manuscripts and books
Conway Collection	- Manuscripts and books
Epstein Collection	- 105 plus
Book Arts	- 225 items
Literary Annuals	- 30
Motion Picture Research Collection	- 200

MANUSCRIPTS

The question of records for manuscript collections is still unsettled. I know the procedure wanted and have done a little, but do not find much time. Whole collections can be done on one card sometimes, in which case they can perhaps go through South Hall. I do not completely approve of manuscript holdings in the public catalog. I should like some way to begin to gather our records for all our holdings in one place and also to do some indexing of important names. With the demands of readers, the general cataloging work, the problems on binding and care, and the exhibition work, we do not seem to find much time for any work on manuscript collections. I hope this coming year, however, to make a brave start. We have a

number of very valuable additions to our collections which should be recorded in a system whereby the next user of the library will at least have some idea of what is around. Only about half of the Stedman Collection has been sorted the first time. It appears we are going to have difficulty obtaining paper for folders, and it may be we won't even have enough boxes to store it all in. I shall start John Barthel working on the collection this fall, and hope we can get it arranged and properly stored so that it may be available through the Reading Room for the use of graduate research students. The Conway papers have been listed briefly; the material that came in the trunk of William A. Dunning material has been sorted and stored in our green manuscript boxes as a collection; there are a number of single letters in the books coming from Mr. Coykendall which are being segregated and stored as individual items, and there are other single manuscripts or small groups which have come in during the year that need attention. We also have a number of other collections in Seligman and also in Book Arts that might well be recorded.

The questions involved in giving permission for the use for publication of manuscript material has come up a number of times this year. I think it is advisable to keep rather close control on our collections as we have been doing, and permission to publish should be granted only after careful consideration.

BINDING

During the year we have had some work done on repair and re-binding by Miss Von Dobeneck. She has done careful and thoughtful work on our volumes, and it is a very satisfactory way of taking care of many of our problems. There is, however, a group of books between the so called special bindings of Dess and Talan and the work of Miss Von Dobeneck. I really believe it is possible to get the commercial binders to do this work satisfactorily. To me the most important defect in the commercial binding work lies in the sewing. During the coming year, I hope we can get some improvement on this point. It may also be possible to develop a simple well-sewn type of pamphlet binding that can be done in our Binding Department. We have hundreds waiting for binding. My policy has been to tie up books in red tape rather than to send them out to the commercial binders. One only needs to see their saw which cuts off the spine of a volume in preparation for over sewing to realize that very few books in Special Collections should ever be trusted to the general routine of a commercial binder. The type of material being transferred from the stacks is often in such condition that special individual handling is the only solution for their preservation. We will have to pay slowly for the many years of inconsiderate treatment of many of our early printed books. It might be possible to work out a combination of the steps. The most difficult work for the commercial binders to fit into their routine is the special repair work and preparation for sewing, and this type of work is also hard to price satisfactorily or judge beforehand by the librarian. It might be that

such work could be first checked over in the Binding Department before giving it to the binder. Those little repairs do consume time but the time is certainly well spent and we cannot expect it from a commercial binder.

STATISTICS				
	<u>Total</u> <u>Use in Building</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Circulation</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Books Borrowed</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Registered</u> <u>Readers</u>
	<u>I, 1 c.</u>	<u>I, 2 c.</u>	<u>II, 2.</u>	
1940 July	1668		59	130
August	542	<u>3</u>	54	121
September	506	13	19	81
October	1097	24	83	119
November	589	3	50	129
December	1460	38	112	134
1941 January	1191	17	121	242
February	908	2	146	170
March	1320	34	74	242
April	584	37	35	212
May	325	22	49	169
June	109	10	-	72
	<u>10,099</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>802</u>	<u>1,871</u>

Comparative figures for the last 3 years

1938-1939	4,231	1,128
1939-1940	6,159	1,839
1940-1941	10,099	1,871

I do not believe statistics are especially helpful as indicating the work accomplished by Special Collections. The large increase in figures of books by call slips may be partly attributed to a stricter policy in respect to the use of Seligman material, requiring the material to be used in the Reading Room and slips to be filled out. I believe the room is being used more and more for research. The use of the room by students of the Book Arts classes accounts for a part of the figures although from day to day we do not always require

students to register who drop in for half an hour or fifteen minutes before their lecture to look at the books on reserve for them. For those books we do not require a record for use. Room 205 is working out satisfactorily at present as a reading room. Mr. Howes takes care of most of the work and supervises it well.

STAFF

Mr. Martin K. Howes has been attending one course period session in the School of Library Service with a Master's degree in mind. His work has been very satisfactory and, in fact, I believe it is rather unusual to find an assistant who will take as much care, responsibility, and interest in the type of collections which we have as he does. I know he likes the work but also that he wants to earn more than he is now receiving. He takes care of all records for the catalog and supervises the reading room as well as other miscellaneous jobs. He has good judgment in book prices and makes a practice of attending as many auctions as he can.

Mrs. Farnsworth Wright, during the past year, has been upset by a number of family problems and, although she enjoys her work on the Seligman Collection, feels that New York with her income is too difficult a place to raise her son. Her work has been satisfactory and I believe she is doing excellent cataloging. She is planning to stay on in New York but is looking for an opportunity outside, especially in the Northwest.

Miss Anna C. Cushing has continued her work of keeping the

office running smoothly and satisfying the demands for dictation and typing of letters of Mr. Hamlin, Mr. Angell, Dr. Lehmann-Haupt and myself. She also has done excellent work on typing exhibition labels, typing reports, etc., although receiving constant interruption from visitors or from the telephone. She is always very prompt and dependable. She has worked for The Libraries almost four years and I sincerely believe that her salary warrants a raise, one which will at least give her an opportunity to join the pension system of the University. Following are statistics on the allotment of her time between her various jobs during the past year:

Administrative typing and dictation	-	53%
Other work.....	-	8%
Mr. Angell.....	-	3%
Mr. Hamlin.....	-	19%
Dr. Lehmann-Haupt.....	-	17%
	-	<u>100%</u>

We have had during the year a number of student assistants. Mr. John H. Berthal is now working with us and I believe will do very good work. We have experimented with having a full time page whom we planned to train to help on shelving and getting books as well as the work of keeping Special Collections and other departments in the Low Memorial Library in touch with South Hall. Our conclusions are that it does not work and we are going back to half time page service. I really believe, except in special moving jobs, we must do our own servicing of books. It is better for the books and also for the staff. There is really very little beside the trips to South Hall and book ciling and bookplating that we can give a page boy to do and know that it is being done satisfactorily. He has helped other departments, especially in Low Library, on special jobs off and on all year.

During the first two weeks of August, 1940, I attended the Library Institute in Chicago, and attended three days of the American Library Association meeting in Boston this June.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles M. Adams

CMA:ACC

June 1941

PLIMPTON, SMITH AND DALE LIBRARIES

July 1, 1940 - June 30, 1941

To the Director of Libraries

Sir:

As curator of the Plimpton, Smith and Dale libraries, I have the honor to present the following report for the academic year ending June 30, 1941.

This year emphasis has been placed on the cataloging of the Plimpton and Smith collections with the result that, in spite of a decreased staff for one-half of the year and the "breaking in" of a new assistant for the other half, the number of titles cataloged exceed that of last year by 178. This meant, of course, that some other activities had to be curtailed; no books were selected and prepared for binding and, more important, there was a sharp decline in the number of exhibitions planned, set up and described.

Cataloging is proceeding by subjects, so that the oldest books in each field, as well as the file of modern textbooks in the subject concerned, are covered in each unit. The code of subjects chosen in the Plimpton collection has been dependent on the ability and special knowledge of each cataloger. Mrs. Christmas finished the books in education and related subjects in the Dewey Decimal "300" (social science) class. Miss Schill has been working with the "400" (language) section, having completed the books in Teutonic languages. The curator is cataloging mathematics, a subject which includes books in both libraries. The two specific fields covered this year were mathematical recreations and mathematical instruments. It was felt especially desirable to work in the latter field not only because of readers' interest, but also to aid in identification and dating of

the actual instruments in this library. To that end, in addition to the usual cataloging, there was compiled a reference file of the instrument makers who were mentioned in such books, often only by advertisements. It is believed that this list will be a real aid in dating the instruments which include the name of the makers. In working with the general catalog and shelf list, cards for a good many books on old scientific instruments were found showing (1) many old half-cards with completely inadequate cataloging, (2) small volumes bound together, often distantly related in period and subject and (3) books so listed were scattered in three departments - the general mathematics library, the science library and the vault, involving, in all, thirty-nine volumes. As the collection in this library was much the largest (more than 150 titles), had been cataloged as a unit and, perhaps most important, has this large collection of instruments themselves, it seemed desirable to ask that the old books in this field be transferred from the above three departments and incorporated in our collections. Official approval having been secured, Miss Melixell, Mr. Berghiesco and Mr. Adams all cooperated most agreeably and expeditiously in making the transfers. It is a pleasure to feel that heads of departments are working for increased efficiency in the library as a whole, cheerfully giving up their treasures in order that the books might be located with the others in their class.

Exhibitions.

Although we have, for the most part, the same exhibition as was described in last year's report (The Influence of Printing on the

Spread of Learning) there seems to be no decrease in the number of visitors who come to view the display. Since the same comment is heard over and over, "I wish I had more time to study these interesting things", the exhibit does not seem to have outlived its usefulness. On the other hand, no matter what type of exhibit has been prepared, there is always a stray visitor who cannot understand why some other field has been neglected. The materials chiefly lamented are the instruments (especially sundials), mathematicians' portraits and handsome Koreans. In February, because of the exhibit of religious and cult objects set up in the rotunda, three of our cases were changed to display large Koreans, early editions of the Bible and beautifully written prayer books of both the Eastern and Western world. Since all of these are important features in the library, it was decided to let them remain and merely stop using the original title of the exhibition. It may be wise to set up a more or less permanent display which would serve as a cross section of all the important fields in these collections, supplementing it from time to time for special events and groups. It seems wiser, at the present, to concentrate on getting cards for our books in the general catalog than to spend so much time in changing exhibits. Intelligent study of the exhibition has been greatly accelerated by the emphasis placed on it in Miss Shaver's summer session course, "History of Books and Printing", given in the School of Library Service. Not only is the exhibit studied as a whole but individual cases and items are carefully examined for subject matter, physical features of book-making and exhibition technique. The students come as

individuals and from their comments it can readily be seen that this method is more productive of results than scheduled class visits en masse.

Acquisitions.

Since our most important additions in the past have come through Professor Smith's foreign travels and from offerings in foreign dealers' catalogs, it will at once be realized that of late our accessions have considerably dwindled. The year's most important gift from Professor Smith is the monumental six-volume set of Arthur Upham Pope's Survey of Persian Art published under the auspices of the American Institute for Iranian Art and Archaeology.

Of the twenty-three books acquired by purchase, twelve deal with old scientific instruments. Perhaps the most important of these is the Astrolabii descriptio of Jacob Köbel, famous sixteenth century German rechnungsmeister, but also important as a printer and wood engraver. From his press at Oppenheim, in 1588, came Johann Stöffler's Elucidatio fabricae ususque astrolabii, the first, as well as the best German work on the astrolabe. As this work is also in the library, by the acquisition of Köbel's treatise, the two can be compared and it can perhaps be determined how much material the printer took from the original master.

Two important additions were made to the comprehensive Euclid collection, although one of these is in reproduced form. This is the first (1881) edition of Robert Recorde's The pathway to knowledge, a positive enlargement of a film made from the copy in the Library of Congress. Since this work represents the first appearance of

Euclid's Elements in a work published in England (as well as in English), it is readily seen that its text had to be acquired to round out the Euclid collection. As far as can be learned, the only copy of this located in this country is the Congressional copy. (There was a copy sold here in 1927 but its whereabouts is unknown.) Its extreme rarity, and consequent high price, precludes the probability of the library ever purchasing a copy, even if one turned up for sale, so it was felt justifiable to secure a reproduction in this case.

Experience in this department has shown the advantage of having one person responsible for the ordering, cataloging and reference work in one field. Bookdealers' catalogs often give a surprising amount of valuable information, leading to sources useful in making the decision as to whether the purchase should be made, as well as supplying data necessary in later cataloging the book, all of which makes one more useful in aiding research workers in the field. T. F. Currier has ably covered this advantageous combination of activities in an article, "The subject specialist", included in College and research libraries, v. 2, p. 14-21, 37 (December 1940). Although this is a small department as far as number of staff members is concerned, every attempt is being made to further subject specialization in the fields represented in these collections in order to render as effective service as possible.

Staff.

The first of September Mrs. Marie Christmas was confined to the hospital for a serious illness, having been in the employ of this library for more than two years with no loss of time for illness.

She submitted her resignation on the first of December, when recovery seemed doubtful, and passed away in May. The library suffers a great loss, for she was a person of outstanding ability and very great loyalty with a real love for her work. Coming to the department in the initial stage of organizing and listing the books, she had opportunity to become thoroughly familiar with the whole collection. She will long be remembered and missed.

On March first, Miss Marion Schild came to the department on a three-fifth time basis and has proved very apt in acquiring the techniques and applying the policies set up for these collections. Coming from Germany but having taken her work for the doctor's degree (in philology) in Italy, she is at home not only in both these languages, but in French as well.

Had it not been for the loyalty and good health of Mr. Ives, the only full-time member of this staff, the library would have fared badly in the period from September to February when the usual third staff member was lacking. Through most of those six months, he had the entire responsibility of the library every afternoon.

Mr. Ives has completed the courses leading to the doctor's degree in classics, and has about one-half of his dissertation completed.

As usual, half of the curator's time (afternoons) was devoted to teaching courses in cataloging in the School of Library Service.

Respectfully submitted,

July 30, 1941

Curator

ACQUISITION

July 1, 1940 - June 30, 1941

	Purchase	Gift	Transfer	Total
Dale (Books)			1	1
Plimpton (Books)		26	35	61
Smith				
Books and pamphlets	23	2	35	60
Manuscripts	1			1
Portraits	12			12
	36	28	71	135

Number of books used

2155

CATALOGING

	<u>Titles</u>	<u>Volumes</u>	<u>Anal.</u>
Plimpton	395	407	41
Smith	223	250	29
Dale	1	1	0
	619	658	70

July 1, 1940 - June 30, 1941